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# Message Text

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12
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /032 W
---------- 055976
R 290712Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6537

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2543

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINR, PINS, PINT, HU
SUBJ: POSSIBLE WORKERS' STRIKE

REF: STATE 184459

1. EMBASSY HEARD RUMORS ON JULY 1 THAT WORK STOPPAGES HAD TAKEN PLACE ON JUNE 29 AT CSEPEL IRON WORKS IN PROTEST AGAINST INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES SCHEDULED TO GO INTO EFFECT JULY 1. RIOT POLICE WERE ALLEGEDLY BROUGHT INTO ACTION AFTER WORKERS MILITIA REFUSED TO INTERVENE. TRUCKLOADS OF RIOT-HELMETED POLICE WERE OBSERVED BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT DAY IN VICINITY OF CSEPEL. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THAT ANY SUCH INCIDENT TOOK PLACE, ALTHOUGH THERE IS MUCH GENERAL BELIEF IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES AND PUBLIC THAT SOME "INCIDENT" TOOK PLACE.

2. WE NOTE REFTEL REFERS TO STRIKES ALLEGEDLY TAKING PLACE AT CSEPEL AUTOMOBILE PLANT. ONE EMBASSY WIFE HEARD FROM HER HAIR-DRESSER THAT STRIKE TOOK PLACE IN MACHINE-STITCHING SECTION OF CSEPEL'S TEXTILE PLANT. REPORT WE HEARD FIRST REFERRED TO WORK STOPPAGE AT IRON WORKS. THUS, THERE ARE THREE VERSIONS OF WHERE INCIDENT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED.

3. THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT SOME KIND OF WORKERS' PROTEST DID TAKE PLACE AT CSEPEL BUT WE CANNOT PROVE IT. IF IT DID, WE BELIEVE IT WAS INSIGNIFICANT IN ITS IMPACT AND BROUGHT QUICKLY UNDER CONTROL. WE HAVE HEARD NO RUMORS OF DIFFICULTIES WITH WORKERS ANYWHERE ELSE IN
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HUNGARY IN LAST FOUR WEEKS. GOVERNMENT SEEMS CONFIDENT

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DESPITE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME GRUMBLING ON PART
OF POPULATION OVER BOTH HIGH PRICES AND LIMITED SUPPLY
OF SOME FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. WE DO NOT, RPT, NOT
BELIEVE GOH IS CONFRONTED WITH ANYWHERE NEAR SAME SITUATION
APPARENTLY FACED BY GOVERNMENT IN POLAND.

4. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO CONFIRM THAT, INDEED,
THERE WAS SOME KIND OF INCIDENT AT DCEPEL.
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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
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**Disposition Authority:** MartinML
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Disposition Event:**
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